NUMB. CXVI.

The GUARDIAN.

——————Ridiculum acri
Fortius & melius—————— Hor.

Friday, July 24. 1713.

THERE are many little Enormities in the World, which our Preachers would be very glad to ſee removed; but at the ſame time dare not meddle with them, for fear of betraying the Dignity of the Pulpit. Should they recommend the *Tucker* in a Pathetick Diſcourſe, their Audiences would be apt to laugh out. I knew a Pariſh, where the top-Woman of it uſed always to appear with a Patch upon ſome part of her Forehead: The good Man of the Place Preached at it with great Zeal for almoſt a Twelvemonth; but inſtead of fetching out the Spot which he perpetually aimed at, he only got the Name of Parſon *Patch* for his Pains. Another is to this Day called by the Name of Doctor *Topknot* for Reaſons of the ſame Nature. I remember the Clergy, during the Time of *Cromwell*'s Uſurpation, were very much taken up in reforming the Female World, and ſhowing the Vanity of thoſe outward Ornaments in which the Sex ſo much delights. I have heard a whole Sermon againſt a White-waſh, and have known a coloured Ribbon made the Mark of the Unconverted. The Clergy of the preſent Age are not tranſported with theſe indiſcreet Fervours, as knowing that it is hard for a Reformer to avoid Ridicule, when he is ſevere upon Subjects which are rather apt to produce Mirth than Seriouſneſs. For this reaſon I look upon my ſelf to be of great Uſe to theſe good Men; while they are employed in extirpating Mortal Sins, and Crimes of a higher Nature, I ſhould be glad to rally the World out of Indecencies and Venial Tranſgreſſions. While the Doctor is curing Diſtempers that have the Appearance of Danger or Death in them, the *Merry-Andrew* has his ſeparate Patients for the Megrims and the Toothach.

Thus much I thought fit to premiſe before I reſume the Subject which I have already handled, I mean the naked Boſomes of our *Britiſh* Ladies. I hope they will not take it ill of me, if I ſtill beg that they will be covered. I ſhall here preſent them with a Letter on that Particular, as it was yeſterday conveyed to me through the Lion's Mouth. It comes from a Quaker, and is as follows.

NESTOR IRONSIDE,

'OUR Friends inform me, We rejoice to find thou begin'ſt to have a glimmering of the Light 'in thee: We ſhall pray for thee, that thou may'ſt 'be more and more enlightened. Thou giveſt 'good Advice to the Women of this World to 'Cloath themſelves like unto our Friends, and not 'to expoſe their fleſhly Temptations, for it is a-'gainſt the Record. Thy Lion is a good Lion; he 'roareth loud, and is heard a great way, even unto 'the Sink of *Babylon*; for the Scarlet Whore is go-'verned by the Voice of thy Lion. Look on his 'Order.

Rome,

(Price Two Pence.)